

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 2001-284

June 24, 2003

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Utility Service Area and Infrastructure
Maps (Chapter 140)

ORDER ON WAIVER
(VERIZON MAINE)

On October 19, 2001, the Commission adopted Chapter 140 of its Rules to require certain public utilities to develop, maintain, and file with the Commission maps of their service area and key infrastructure.¹ That Rule, which became effective on October 29, 2001, requires local exchange carriers (LECs) to develop and current maps of their key infrastructure in both paper and electronic (GIS) form,² and to file such maps by July 1, 2002.³ The Rule allows a waiver “where good cause exists” and “the granting of the waiver would not be inconsistent with the purposes of [Chapter 140] or Title 35-A.”⁴

Verizon New England Inc. d/b/a Verizon Maine is an LEC operating in Maine and is subject to Chapter 140. Verizon Maine has made some of the filings required by Chapter 140, but has not filed all the information required by that rule. The Staff has discussed these deficiencies with Verizon Maine’s regulatory staff on a number of occasions to ascertain Verizon Maine’s progress toward meeting the requirements of that Rule.

On June 6, 2003, Verizon Maine’s President & CEO sent a letter to Chairman Welch describing Verizon Maine’s activities related to meeting Chapter 140 requirements.⁵ The letter stated that “Verizon expects to have Phase I infrastructure maps to re-file in required GIS format in September of 2003. Verizon’s completed maps reflecting our key infrastructure with attributes should

¹ *PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, Utility Service Area and Infrastructure Maps (Chapter 140)*, Docket No. 2001-284, Order Adopting Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis (Oct. 19, 2001) (“Chapter 140 Order”)

² MPUC Rules, ch. 140, § 3(A)

³ MPUC Rules, ch. 140, § 3(F)(1)(a)

⁴ MPUC Rules, ch. 140, § 4

⁵ MPUC Rules, ch. 110, § 302(b) states:

This subsection shall govern filing of documents with the Commission. All documents intended for filing shall be addressed to the Administrative Director.

be ready for filing by the July, 2004 deadline set forth in the Rule”.⁶ The letter did not request any specific action of the Commission.

In order to prevent further delays and additional paperwork in this case, I will consider whether to permit Verizon Maine to be in noncompliance with the Rule pursuant to the Rule’s waiver provision in Section 4. Verizon Maine’s letter described the process it is undertaking to comply with that Rule, including database collection and contracted programming activities. I find that Verizon Maine has demonstrated good cause for a waiver, and hereby grant the requested extensions.

Accordingly, the deadline set in Section 3(F)(1)(a) for Verizon Maine to file infrastructure transmission maps is extended until September 30, 2003, and by April 1 of each year thereafter. The deadline set in Section 3(F)(1)(b) for Verizon Maine to file distribution infrastructure maps and key infrastructure attributes is extended until July 1, 2004; Verizon Maine shall make updated filings by April 1 of each year thereafter.

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR
OF TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Faith Huntington
Acting Director of Technical Analysis

⁶ For Incumbent LECs like Verizon Maine, Chapter 140 requires filing of service area and infrastructure transmission maps by July 1, 2002, and requires filing of infrastructure distribution maps and key infrastructure attributes by **April 1, 2004**.